

A Marine Atlas for the Proposed National Marine Conservation Area in the Southern Strait of Georgia

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Canada and British Columbia are jointly undertaking a study to assess the feasibility of establishing a new national marine conservation area (NMCA) in the southern Strait of Georgia. The primary objective of the study is to determine whether or not the proposed establishment of an NMCA, firstly, is a practical and desirable thing to do from a policy and administrative perspective, and secondly, is generally supported by local residents and the public at large. To support the study, Parks Canada, and its partner agencies, is preparing a Marine Atlas for the southern Strait of Georgia. The atlas will be prepared at a scale of 1:100,000 and will consist of approximately 30 thematic map sheets that describe: the biophysical and cultural resource base as it is currently understood, the current status of environmental quality; and all aspects of human use of the marine environment. The Atlas will be the primary vehicle for validating resource information and for documenting new information, both from scientific research and from sources of local and traditional ecological knowledge. The Atlas will be available to participants in the process and members of the public as hard copy and in a web-based format.